

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 061532Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3910
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 00544

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG PINT
SUBJECT: MORE WAFD

REF: CAIRO 391

1. SPEAKING WITH EMBOFF JAN 6, ABDUL FATAH HASSAN (MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, FORMER WAFD MINISTER OF INTERIOR) CONFIRMED BASIC OUTLINES INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL. CLAIMED, HOWEVER, THERE ADDITIONAL "SECRET" MEMBERS NEW WAFD IN PARLIAMENT CURRENTLY ON PM SALIM'S CENTER PARTY ROLLS. REFUSED PROVIDE NAMES BUT SUGGESTED TOTAL WAFD PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTH NOW NEAR 30. (IN PASSING, HASSAN SAID THAT FOUR OF 22 FOUNDING PARLIAMENTARIANS HAD DEFECTED FROM SALIM'S CENTER PARTY OVER COTTON "FIASCO" IN FAYUM.)

2. ABDUL FATAH NOTED GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING PARTIES LAW, MUST RESPOND TO APPLICATION FOR LEGALIZATION WITHIN 30 DAYS. SHOULD APPLICATION BE REFUSED, HE MAINTAINED, CONFIDENTIAL

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WAFDISTS WILL TAKE TO THE STREETS--AT TIME WHEN PRESIDENT NEEDS FULL SUPPORT EGYPTIAN PEOPLE FOR PEACE EFFORTS.

3. ABDUL FATAH CLAIMED NEW PARTY ENJOYS SUPPORT OF IKHWAN (SAID SHEIKH ABU ISMAIL IS THEIR REPRESENTATIVE TO WAFD) AND LEFT (DESCRIBED AHMED TAHA AS LEFTIST RATHER THAN COMMUNIST). SAID EXTREMISTS FROM BOTH CAMPS

WOULD LEAVE PARTY, OR BE KICKED OUT, ONCE IT LEGALLY ESTABLISHED. COPTS, TOO, HE SAID, SUPPORT NEW WAFD-- INCLUDING POPE SHENUDA, WHO "REGRETED" HE WAS UNABLE ATTEND SARRAGEDDIN'S LECTURE WHICH LAUNCHED RESURGENCE.

4. ABDUL FATAH SAID NEW WAFD HAD METICULOUSLY FULFILLED REQUIREMENTS OF PARTIES LAW AND HE QUITE CONFIDENT THERE NO LEGAL GROUNDS FOR ASU-CHAIRER COMMITTEE TO REJECT ITS APPLICATION. THOUGHT NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FIRM AND GROWING; SAID MORE THAN HALF FOUNDING MEMBERS "WORKERS AND PEASANTS"; AND CLAIMED PARTY PLATFORM DIFFERS FROM EXISTING POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS. HE PROVIDED COPY OF THIS TO EMBOFF--WE ARE TRANSLATING.

5. COMMENT: AS ALWAYS, ABDUL FATAH HASSAN WAS FEISTY, CONFIDENT AND DETERMINED CONFRONT SALIM EXPLICITLY, AND SADAT IMPLICITLY, IN POLITICAL ARENA. EXPRESSED CERTITUDE WAFD WOULD REGAIN ITS WIDE SUPPORT FROM EGYPTIAN POPULACE. HE GAVE NO INDICATION HE WILL BE DETERRED FROM PURSUING CURRENT GAMBIT TO FINISH, WHATEVER THIS IS. EILTS

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